Project Examples

Climate Change Adaptation

Assateague Island National Seashore *in Berlin, Maryland*

This project engaged multiple partners and the public in the design of a climate-resilient shoreline to reduce erosion and protect infrastructure associated with the mainland visitor center. The project location is ideally situated to serve as a high-profile demonstration site to educate the public about the effects of climate change and to showcase how nature-based solutions can be effective strategies for mitigating future climate change impacts.

Participants: 25 total participants, 4 youth participants (16%)
Expected Completion Date: May 31st, 2022
Partner: Maryland Coastal Bays Program
Partner Match: $62,071 total with $42,071 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $22,800
Project Theme: Climate Change Adaptation

Conservation – Air Quality

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front NHP *in Richmond, California*

Through this project, the Green Team engaged in recruitment additional team members, canvassing of multiple disadvantaged communities to share information about the Air Rangers program, and serve as part of the Richmond-San Pablo Path to Clean Air Monitoring Outreach Team to collect data on air quality and compile it in quarterly reports distributed to the Richmond community. Through these efforts, concerns around safety from environmental and physical hazards, exacerbated by the pandemic, were identified as a deterrent for residents accessing green space.

Participants: 700 total participants, 25 youth participants
Partner: Groundwork Richmond
Partner Match: $50,000 total with $10,000 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $24,500

Conservation – Waste Reduction

Big Bend National Park *in Big Bend National Park, Texas*

This project presented an opportunity to identify, document, and evaluate the current waste management system at Big Bend National Park. In May 2021, the park hosted a physical waste stream audit. The audit, conducted by MSW Consultants, quantified the amount of waste and recyclables generated, estimated the contribution factors, and determined the composition of disposed waste at multiple campsites and visitors' centers throughout the park. The audit process involved: sorting physical waste into over 30 categories, determining eligibility for recycling or composting and accounting for extenuating factors that may have contributed to differentiated waste streams. Audit findings will allow the park to examine and update its protocols for waste management, including communications strategies for park guests and staff, improving accessibility and likelihood of utilizing recycling resources, exploring opportunities for composting, and encouraging greater adoption of "pack in, pack out" behavior.

Participants: 100 total participants, 10 youth participants
Partner: Big Bend Conservancy
Partner Match: $115,000 with no in-kind dollars
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $25,000

Underserved Communities – Outdoor Recreation Access

Biscayne and Everglades National Parks *in Homestead, Florida*

The project in Biscayne National Park allowed families to enjoy fishing, paddling, and snorkeling excursions on Biscayne Bay. Most participants identified as members of the BIPOC or Latinx communities, chronically underrepresented demographics for visiting national parks. The program received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Families answered they were highly likely to return to Biscayne National Park, visit new national parks, and seek out

future outdoor recreation activities in their communities. All goals were made more manageable by giving away snorkel, fishing, and paddling gear to the families that participated.

Participants: 127 total participants, 57 youth participants
Partner: Florida National Parks Association
Partner Match: $13,531 total with $0 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $13,500
Project Goals:
1) Provide on-water youth education, recreation, and stewardship opportunities
2) Improvements in recreation opportunities, access, and infrastructure
3) Stewardship through public engagement
4) Increasing public use and awareness

Conservation- Invasives/Outdoor Recreation Access

Ice Age National Scenic Trail *in Madison, Wisconsin*

Great work was accomplished during this project despite delays and derailments by COVID impacts in the second half of the year. More than 3 acres of land, including two miles of trail stewardship zone, were restored by removing invasive honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard. The city of West Bend constructed more than 300 feet of surface tread using crushed rock. 156 volunteers participated in the project. 200 feet of elevated boardwalk was crafted, and two trailheads were constructed with signage upgrades being made through the trail. Promotional materials were also designed and distributed. Some of the most specific successes of this project include the creation of new Trail experiences in the growing city of West Bend. This project created natural surface pathways through the community, connecting with the outlying glacial topography. This created positive impacts in the community, both with residents and those who visit.

Participants: 156 total participants, 22 youth participants
Expected Completion Date: March 15th, 2021
Partner: Ice Age Trail Alliance
Partner Match: $94,885 total with $48,825 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $25,000
Project Goals:
1) Protection and restoration of trails or rivers/riverside lands
2) Improvements in recreation opportunities, access, and infrastructure
3) Stewardship through public engagement
4) Increasing public use and awareness

Conservation/Stewardship

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument *in Mountainair, New Mexico*

In 2020, two pollinator gardens were designed and installed at the Salinas Pueblo and Missions National Monument. Over 1500 pollinator resource plants were purchased (from the Pueblo of Santa Ana nursery and Plants of the Southwest) and planted into the garden. Timing of flowering for plants selected spanned spring through fall flower colors with a rich palate designed to sustain and support a diversity of pollinators with varying emergence times. Engaging Visitor Center and Park management staff and volunteers in every aspect of the project (design, construction, planting, garden care) helped staff establish a sense of ownership and familiarity with the project to better answer questions about the garden from Park visitors. An ethnically diverse Youth Conservation Corp at NPS helped build the garden and received training, expanding their conservation skills and knowledge of native pollinator plants and the importance of pollinator gardens. Park staff and future visitors benefit from beautification of two areas at the Park that previously were weedy and had no wildflowers or color.

Participants: 75 total participants, 27 youth participants
Expected Completion Date: February 1st, 2021
Partner: Institute for Applied Ecology
Partner Match: $8,604 total with $6,580 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $10,000

Conservation/Outdoor Recreation Access

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River *in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Our Pedal-Paddle-Snorkel project for the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River brought people together from throughout our region to enjoy and learn about this unique park setting during a challenging time of the COVID pandemic. The greatest highlight of the project was the suite of diverse and deeply immersive recreational and learning experiences each participant enjoyed from this Wild & Scenic River. From whitewater kayaking to snorkel surveys to fall biking tours, DRN and our partners celebrated the many unique facets of a free-flowing river in ways that challenged participants' senses, stimulated their minds, and exercised their bodies. The snorkel surveys for freshwater mussels brought community scientists to fill a needed gap in our understanding of the status and trends of a threatened resource for the Lower Delaware River. While government agencies laid the foundation with baseline surveys, the alarming trends in freshwater mussels never received the follow-up, and investigative response warranted in the baseline patterns. With a team of community scientists and volunteers, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network began to fill the scientific void and lay the path for greater understanding and protection of these threatened mussel populations.

Participants: 38 total participants, 2 youth participants
Expected Completion Date: December 15, 2020
Partner: Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Partner Match: $12,956 total with $3,056 in-kind
Challenge Cost Share Assistance: $12,000